



Community Facilities Planning Committee

c/o Falmouth Town Hall, 271 Falmouth Road, Falmouth, ME 04105, 781-5253

Community Facilities Planning Committee

Meeting Notes Tuesday May 20, 2008

Councilor Breen
Council Chair

Councilor Armitage
Council Vice Chair

Marsha Clark

Judith Currier

Phil Kaplan

Analiese Larson

Tim O'Donovan

Mark Soule

Steve Tenney

Committee members present: Councilor Breen, Councilor Armitage, Marsha Clark, Judith Currier, Tim O'Donovan, Mark Soule, Steve Tenney, Analiese Larson, Phil Kaplan

Advisors/Town staff present: Lyn Sudlow, Theresa Pierce, Theo Holtwijk

Consultant present: Mark Gianniny

Cathy started the meeting at 7:02 PM.

Library Review

Lyn began the review with an outside tour of the library. The building was originally built in 1908, and purchased for a library in 1951. Two additions have since been made, one in 1965 and another in 1995.

The parking area at the Legion was paved by the Town and is plowed by the Town. There is a possibility for shared parking use at that location. It is uncertain if that parking could be further expanded as the land is not controlled by the library or the Town. The library building is dedicated to the memory of veterans. Many of the trees, such as the blooming magnolia, are memorial trees to others. The group concluded its walking tour around the building's perimeter.

After the outside tour, Lyn proceeded with a tour of the interior, and then presented a PowerPoint presentation. Various facts on the growth of the library's use were presented along with an outline of space issues and explorations for expansion.

The Russell Room holds 80 people comfortably. The library does not charge for the use by Falmouth non-profits. It is a popular space that was booked close to 1,000 times last year. The library is considered a neutral place to meet for many groups. Changing the use of this meeting room for other library uses may be in conflict with the original donor purpose. The library would be in favor of creating additional meeting space in the community to relieve the pressure on the Russell Room.

The 1995 expansion was 7130 sf, but added not as much useable space. Last year's Patriot's day storm showed the community use the tremendous community use the building got. Library use statistics outpaced population growth. With technology changes, children cannot use the library's website unless they had library

cards. Interlibrary loan has seen a huge increase in activity since the library joined the Minerva system. Books are delivered to several retirement homes and shut-ins. Books on stacks were also discussed. Generally the top and bottom shelves receive the least use by patrons and the library tries to avoid putting books on them.

In 2004 Dick Reed prepared a plan for a 2nd story expansion, which was rejected by the library. Lyn created an alternative on an aerial photo that showed a discontinuation of Depot Road. From a traffic study perspective that seemed to work well. It was noted that it created more of a campus feel with the adjoining Legion land (without need to cross a road). This was not the case with the Rotary proposal, which was to be located on Town land near the warming hut, and would be separate from our civic uses.

When a neighbor offered a suggestion to buy his/her land, three other concept scenarios were developed. This time by Barba + Wheelock. The library prefers option B. Where would future expansion go? Option B has the best potential for that, although the site is quite constrained.

Were the elementary schools considered for library use? It had come up, but co-locating with a school, such as at East End School in Portland, was ruled out. The future vacant buildings had not been considered, but Lyn suspected a lot of renovation needs.

Tidewater had talked about donating land, but that location was considered too out of the way.

Budget concerns were brought up. If there are three major user groups, Town Hall, Community Programs, and Library, what would the increased operational cost be? The group discussed possible energy savings and savings through future municipal consolidation.

What other library models could be considered? The committee talked about various other libraries in similar communities. The Yarmouth Library collocates with the local historical society, but Lyn said the library there needed to expand and perhaps ask to historical society to vacate its floor.

Was there an advantage to locate near a school? The superintendent's office site may be suitable for that. There are advantages and disadvantages with locating near school.

Cathy has heard of people who would like a book drop-off possibility in West Falmouth, not necessarily a branch. Lyn said that there used to be a library in the former Huston School.

Cathy asked if we were ready for tomorrow's tour. The answer is yes. The steps after that will be important: What other data needs will the committee have? Steve reported that Community Programs is putting together its wish list for space. It was suggested that as alternatives for the library are examined that cost to move would be compared to the cost to stay. Energy considerations were mentioned again, as well as needing to think as to how to best communicate this project to and get feedback from the public. It was noted that this project also involves thinking about the future growth (and ultimate size) of Falmouth population.

The library's PowerPoint will be made available to the committee.

Next Meeting

Next meeting is a tour of the Plummer-Motz and Lunt schools on May 21st at 6:00 PM. The meeting was adjourned around 8:54 PM.

Meeting notes prepared by Theo Holtwijk, May 21, 2008. Revised June 12, 2008 TH.